AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~A method for generating a substantially uninterrupted connection of ~~the~~ peripheral wall portions of two adjacent tubular segments each provided with flanges having holes therein, of a tower~~, in particular for a wind energy turbine~~, wherein the method comprises~~: the steps of~~

arranging a first tubular segment ~~(18)~~ and a second tubular segment ~~(20)~~ with said flanges ~~(26,28)~~ thereof facing each other and said holes ~~(34,36)~~ in said flanges ~~(26,28)~~ aligned with each other,

connecting said tubular segments ~~(18,20)~~ by prefastening screws ~~(38)~~ extending through said aligned holes ~~(34,36)~~ in said flanges ~~(26,28)~~,

forming into ~~the~~ a side ~~(50)~~ of the tubular segments ~~(18,20)~~ opposite to the flanges ~~(26,28)~~ a notch ~~(52)~~ of a predetermined width at least at a location of said contacting flanges ~~(26,28)~~ where a gap, ~~(48)~~ having a width greater than a minimum width, exists,

inserting into said notch ~~(52)~~ at least one insert part ~~(60)~~ having a width substantially equal to the width of said notch ~~(52)~~, and completely fastening said screws ~~(38)~~ connecting said flanges ~~(26,28)~~ of said tubular segments ~~(18,20)~~ providing a substantially uninterrupted connection of said peripheral wall portions ~~(22,24)~~ of said tubular segments ~~(18,20)~~ through said at least one insert part ~~(60)~~.

2. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~A method for generating a substantially uninterrupted connection of ~~the~~ peripheral wall portions of two adjacent tubular segments of a tower~~, in particular of a wind energy turbine~~, wherein the tubular segments are provided with flanges having holes therein and fastened screws are extending through the holes of the contacting flanges of the tubular segments, the method comprising~~: the following steps~~

releasing the screws of said contacting flanges ~~(26,28)~~ of said tubular segments ~~(18,20)~~,

forming into ~~the~~ a side of the tubular segments ~~(18,20)~~ opposite to the flanges ~~(26,28)~~ a notch ~~(52)~~ of a predetermined width at least at one location of said contacting flanges ~~(26,28)~~ where a gap ~~(48)~~ having a width greater than a minimum width exists,

inserting into said notch ~~(52)~~ at least one insert part ~~(60)~~ having a width substantially equal to the width of said notch ~~(52)~~, and

completely fastening said screws ~~(38)~~ connecting said flanges ~~(26,28)~~ of said tubular segments ~~(18,20)~~ providing a substantially uninterrupted connection of said peripheral wall portions ~~(22,24)~~ of said tubular segments ~~(18,20)~~ through said at least one insert part ~~(60)~~.

3. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to claim ~~1 or~~ 2, wherein said notch ~~(52)~~ is formed such that said notch ~~(52)~~ partially extends in both of said tubular segments ~~(18,20)~~.

4. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to~~ claim 3, wherein said notch ~~(52)~~ comprises a depth which is substantially equal to a thickness of said peripheral wall portions ~~(22,24)~~ of said tubular segments ~~(18,20)~~.

5. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to claim 4, wherein said tubular segments ~~(18,20)~~ have peripheral wall portions ~~(22,24)~~ of different thicknesses and wherein the depth of said notch ~~(52)~~ is substantially equal to the smaller tubular segment wall portion thickness.

6. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to~~ claim 5, wherein said notch ~~(52)~~ is formed such that said notch ~~(52)~~ extends straightly and oriented secantially with respect to the extension of said peripheral wall portions ~~(22,24)~~ of said tubular segments ~~(18,20)~~.

7. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to~~

claim 6, wherein forming said notch ~~(52)~~ is performed by means of a milling cutter tool ~~(82)~~.

8. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to~~ claim 7, wherein forming said notch ~~(52)~~ is performed by a cutting device ~~(64)~~ having a frame ~~(70)~~ and a cutting tool ~~(82)~~ mounted to said frame ~~(70)~~ and slidable along a guidance ~~(78)~~ of said frame ~~(70)~~, wherein said frame ~~(70)~~ is fixedly arranged with respect to at least one of said tubular segments ~~(18,20)~~ by fastening elements ~~(66,68)~~ and wherein said cutting tool ~~(82)~~ is aligned for cutting a notch ~~(52)~~ having the desired orientation with respect to said tubular segments ~~(18,20)~~.

9. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to claim 8, wherein said frame, ~~(70)~~ when fixedly arranged with respect to said tubular segments ~~(18,20)~~, is adjusted with respect to said fastening elements ~~(66,68)~~ for aligning said cutting tool ~~(28)~~ with respect to said tubular segments ~~(18,20)~~.

10. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to claim ~~8 or~~ 9, wherein said fastening elements ~~(66,68)~~ are selected from the group comprising tension belt arranged around at least one of said tubular segments ~~(18,20)~~ for mechanically mounting said frame ~~(70)~~ to at least one of said tubular segments ~~(18,20)~~, and solenoid elements ~~(66,68)~~ for magnetically mounting said frame ~~(70)~~ to at least one of said tubular segments ~~(18,20)~~.

11. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to ~~any one of claims 8 to~~ claim 10, wherein the frame ~~(70)~~ is suspended at at least one wire ~~(72)~~, chain or the like element fixed on top of the tower ~~(10)~~.

12. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein said notch is formed such that said notch partially extends in both of said tubular segments.

13. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein said notch comprises a depth which is substantially equal to a thickness of said peripheral wall portions of said tubular segments.

14. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein said tubular segments have peripheral wall portions of different thicknesses and wherein the depth of said notch is substantially equal to the smaller tubular segment wall portion thickness.

15. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein said notch is formed such that said notch extends straightly and oriented secantially with respect to the extension of said peripheral wall portions of said tubular segments.

16. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein forming said notch is performed by means of a milling cutter tool.

17. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein forming said notch is performed by a cutting device having a frame and a cutting tool mounted to said frame and slidable along a guidance of said frame, wherein said frame is fixedly arranged with respect to at least one of said tubular segments by fastening elements and wherein said cutting tool is aligned for cutting a notch having the desired orientation with respect to said tubular segments.

18. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein said frame, when fixedly arranged with respect to said tubular segments, is adjusted with respect to said fastening elements for aligning said cutting tool with respect to said tubular segments.

19. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein said fastening elements are selected from the group comprising tension belt arranged around at least one of said tubular segments for mechanically mounting said frame to at least one of said tubular segments, and solenoid elements for magnetically mounting said frame to at least one of said tubular segments.

20. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein the frame is suspended at at least one wire, chain or the like element fixed on top of the tower.